

Contents

A sea change: The Corpus	1
1 Size matters: How many words?	10
2 Your Roman-Saxon-Danish-Norman English: Where do words come from?	21
3 Beware of heard: Why spelling wobbles	48
4 Which is to be master? Meaning in context	64
5 Words of a feather: Word groupings	85
6 Cats and dogs: Idiomatic phrases	102
7 Grammar that can govern even kings: What do we mean by grammar?	120
8 Style wars: Usages people hate	136
Epilogue: Dictionaries then and now	157
Notes	166
Index	175